Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue #4 **Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC** **29 May 2020**

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

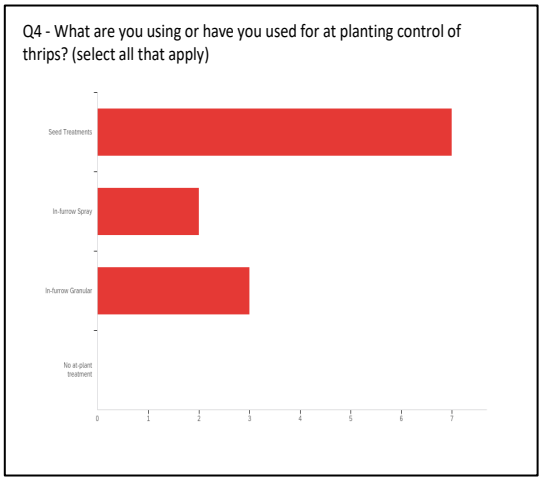
When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at **@bugdocisin** on Twitter.

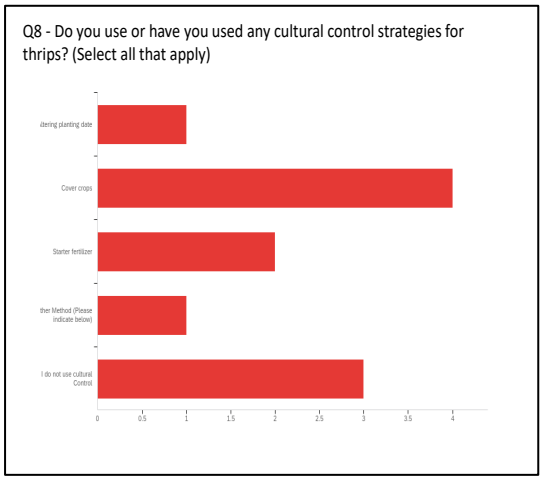
News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Orangeburg, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties, reported that he has had "no reports of any problems this week." **Charles Davis**, county agent covering Calhoun and Richland Counties, reported "Pretty quiet over here. I think the rain beat the thrips back a little. Hoppers still hopping, but I haven't seen a whole lot of damage." **Hannah Mikell**, county agent in Clarendon County, reported no problems with insects in her area and added that "they've all drown by now or should have," with all of the rain this week. ☺ Rain does help with thrips, spider mites, and a few other problem species, but, for the most part, rain is good for the crop and good for insect development.

Have a Minute for a Short Survey?

Participation in last week's survey was low, but results from a question or two about management options for thrips in cotton for this season are shown here. Seed treatments are the most used at-plant option, and some cultural controls are being used. Good!

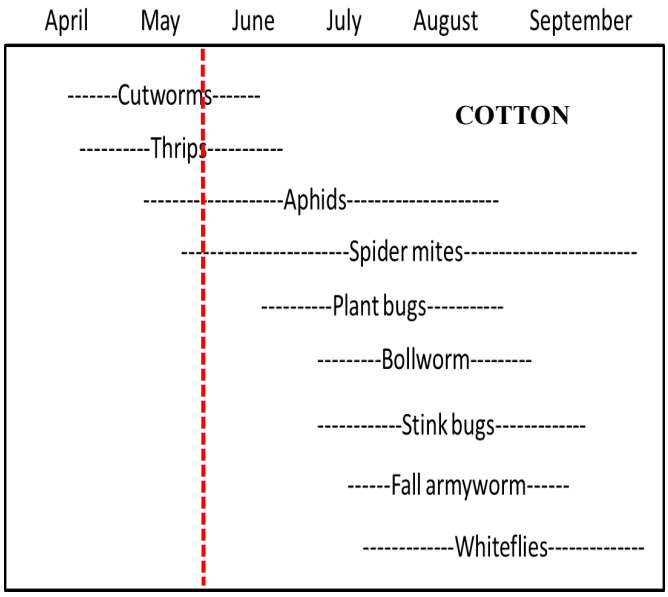




Cotton Situation

As of 24 May 2020, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 56% of the crop has been planted, compared with 45% at this time last week, 83% at this time last year, and 70% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages. The condition of the crop was not yet described, but we are a little behind on planting.

Cotton Insects



We have had too much rain in some locations of the state, too little in other spots, and just enough in the lucky areas. Pressure from thrips will likely decline after these rains, if they have not already in your area. That being said, we did have the highest counts of immature thrips in some of my cotton plots this week (in a trial where I try to spray for thrips with no at-plant protection – don't try this at home, kids).

The additional attachment in my email this week contains photos of some of my plots in a trial evaluating at-plant treatments for thrips. The photos are at about 6 weeks after planting and show some differences in control of thrips this year. The seed treatments were weaker than products put in the furrow with the seed, but they were still much better than nothing (UTC). Plots treated with aldicarb (AgLogic) looked the best, but other treatments were more than acceptable. Check out the comparisons in the photos.

Grasshoppers are still out in force, but heavy Orthene rates and Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre will suppress adults and control immatures and control tobacco thrips. If you don't have issues with grasshoppers and false chinch bugs, a product like Radiant is a great choice for final seedling sprays for thrips because it will not flare spider mites and aphids like acephate will.

Soybean Situation

As of 24 May 2020, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 37% of the crop has been planted, compared with 21% the previous week, 32% at this time last year, and 37% for the 5-year average. About 21% of the crop has emerged, compared with 10% the previous week, 14% at this time last year, and 19% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was not yet described. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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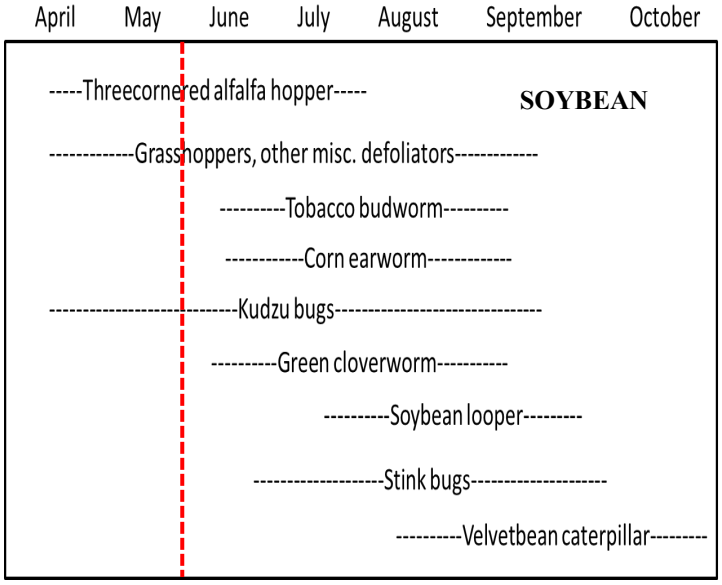
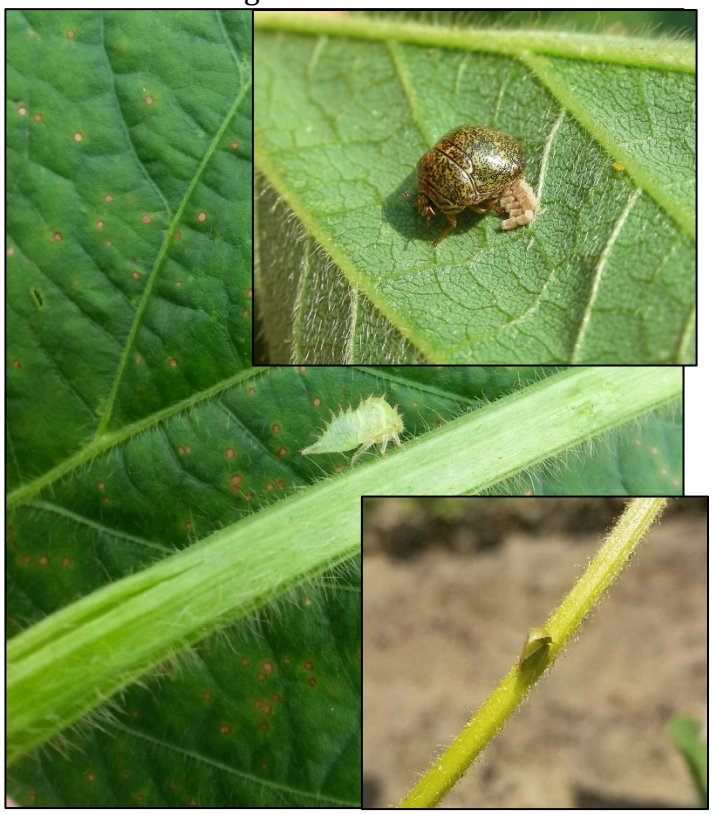
Soybean Insects



Same as last week – there is still not a lot of activity with insects in soybeans, other than grasshoppers being reported in some locations. No arthropods seem to be causing any issues in early planted soybeans I have in a planting date study at Edisto REC. For grasshoppers that continue to be an issue in spots in both cotton and soybean, consider using Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre to control the immatures and break the life cycle. For controlling grasshopper adults, we recommend acephate (Orthene) for adult grasshoppers in cotton, so you can also control tobacco thrips, but, in soybeans, use a high rate of a pyrethroid for some suppression of the adults that are difficult to control and Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre for the immatures. Now is the time to watch out for grasshoppers, threecornered alfalfa hoppers, kudzu bugs, and any other insect that likes to feed on vegetative soybeans, when we don't typically do a lot of scouting.



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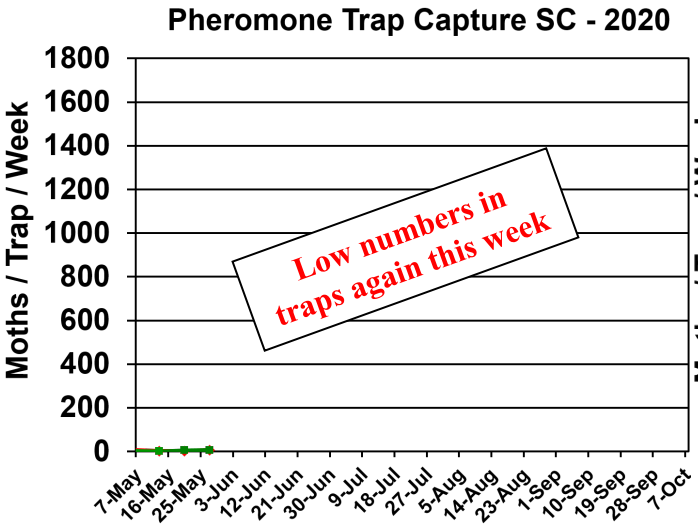
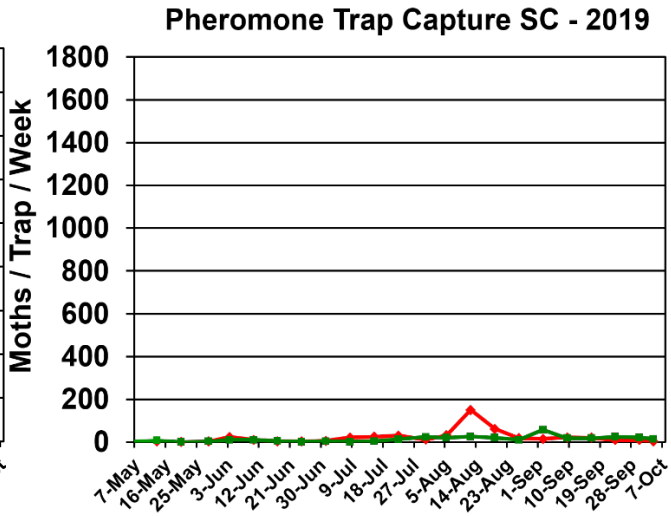
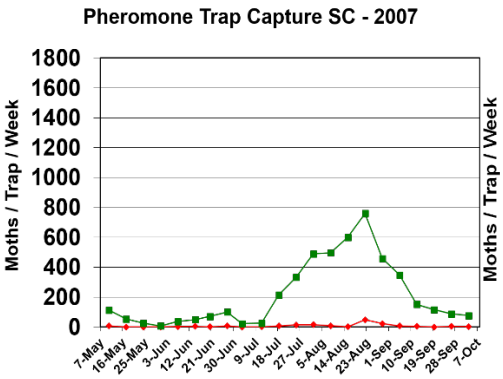
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

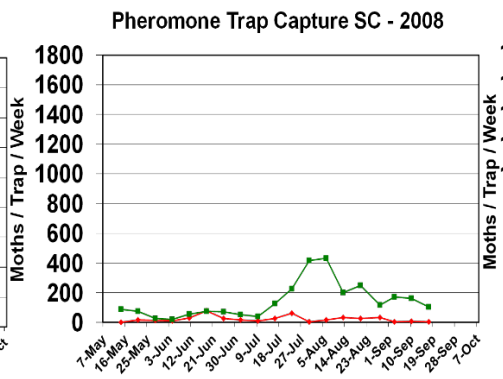
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2019 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

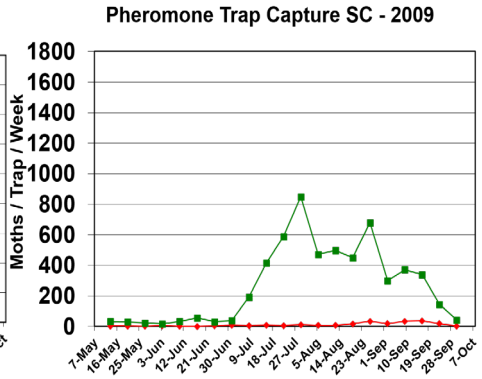


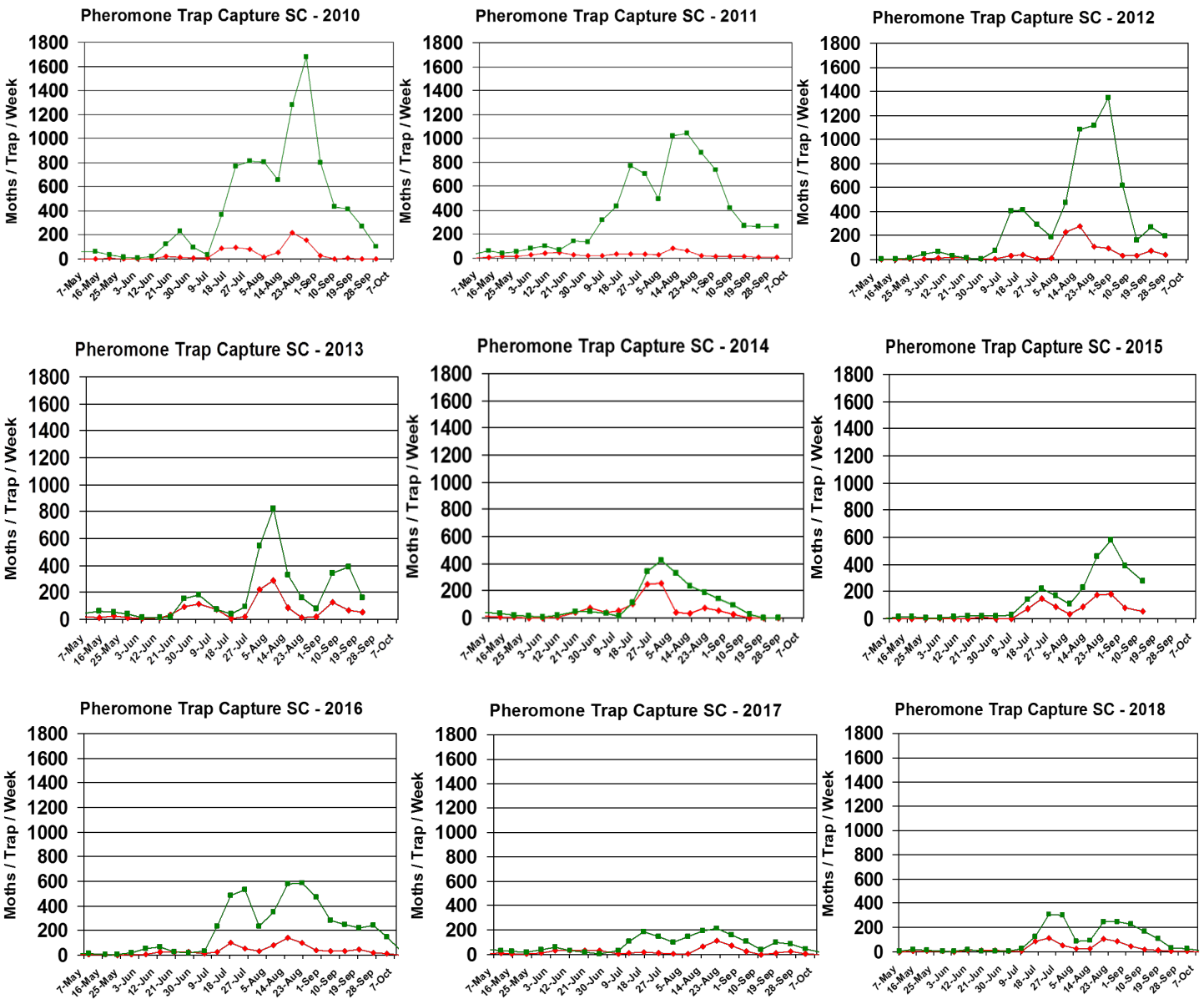


Trap data from 2007-2018 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:





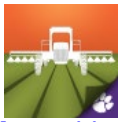




Pest Management Handbook – 2020

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2020 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"



Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology

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